



Maryland and Delaware Prospective Plantings *Media Summary*

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Farmers Make Plans for Planting 2005 Field Crops

According to a survey conducted the week of March 1 by the Maryland/Delaware Agricultural Statistics Service, farmers are finalizing plans for the planting of field crops. Survey results indicate that farmers expect to plant fewer acres of soybeans in Delaware this year, while maintaining the same acreage of all other crops. In Maryland, the number of acres planted to corn, winter wheat and soybeans and the number of acres harvested for hay is expected to decline from 2004. Only barley seedings are expected to increase from 2004.

Delaware. Delaware farmers indicate that they plan to plant 160,000 acres of **corn** in 2005, unchanged from last year. **Soybean** acreage is expected to decline, however, from the 210,000 acres planted in 2004 to 180,000 acres in 2005. Small grain acreage is unchanged from 2004, at 50,000 acres of **winter wheat** and 29,000 acres of **barley** planted. Farmers also expect to harvest 14,000 acres of all types of **hay**.

Maryland. Maryland farmers expect to plant 460,000 acres of **corn** in 2005, a drop of 30,000 acres from the 490,000 acres planted in 2004. **Soybean** acreage is estimated at 450,000 acres, down 50,000 acres from last year. The survey indicated that 46,000 acres of **barley** have been planted, up 4,000 acres from the 42,000 acres planted in 2004. **Winter wheat** acreage declined 6 percent from 2004 to 150,000 acres. Farmers also expect to harvest 200,000 acres of all types of **hay**, down from 215,000 acres harvested in 2004.

United States: **Corn** planted area for all purposes is estimated at 81.4 million acres, up 1 percent from 2004 and 4 percent above 2003. If realized, this would be largest corn acreage since 1985. Expected acreage is up from last year throughout much of the Corn Belt and southern Great Plains. However, growers in most States in the Delta, Southeast, and northern Great Plains intend to decrease their corn acreage as producers are switching to other more profitable crops due to low corn prices and high fuel and fertilizer costs.

Soybean producers intend to plant 73.9 million acres in 2005, down 2 percent from last year's record high acreage. Of the 31 soybean producing States, growers in 16 States intend to plant fewer acres this year, while producers in 11 States intend to plant more acres than in 2004. The largest acreage declines are in the Dakotas, where low soybean prices have some farmers shifting to other crops. Large declines in soybean acreage are also expected in the Delta and Southeast States.

ACREAGE, YIELD AND PRODUCTION 2004 AND 2005

Commodity	Unit	Planted		Harvested		Average Yield		Production	
		2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
Maryland		1,000 Acres						1,000	
Corn ¹	ACR	490	460	----	----	----	----	----	----
Corn Grain	BU	----	----	425	----	153	----	65,025	----
Corn Silage	TON	----	----	60	----	20	----	1,200	----
Soybeans	BU	500	450	495	----	43	----	21,285	----
Winter Wheat	BU	160	150	145	----	59	----	8,555	----
Barley	BU	42	46	39	----	73	----	2,847	----
All Hay	TON	----	----	215	200	2.7	----	570	----
Alfalfa Hay	TON	----	----	40	----	3.3	----	132	----
Other Hay	TON	----	----	175	----	2.5	----	438	----
Apples	LBS	----	----	----	----	----	----	34,000	----
Peaches	LBS	----	----	----	----	----	----	8,800	----
Potatoes, Summer	CWT	4.7	----	4.6	----	260	----	1,196	----
Delaware									
Corn ¹	ACR	160	160	----	----	----	----	----	----
Corn Grain	BU	----	----	153	----	152	----	23,256	----
Corn Silage	TON	----	----	6	----	17	----	102	----
Soybeans	BU	210	180	208	----	42	----	8,736	----
Winter Wheat	BU	50	50	47	----	58	----	2,726	----
Barley	BU	29	29	26	----	80	----	2,080	----
All Hay	TON	----	----	14	14	2.93	----	41	----
Alfalfa Hay	TON	----	----	6	----	3.90	----	23	----
Other Hay	TON	----	----	8	----	2.30	----	18	----
Potatoes, Summer	CWT	3.3	----	3.1	----	260	----	806	----
United States		1,000,000							
Corn ¹	ACR	80,930	81,413	----	----	----	----	----	----
Corn Grain	BU	----	----	73,632	----	160	----	11,807	----
Corn Silage	TON	----	----	6,103	----	18	----	107	----
Soybeans	BU	75,208	73,910	73,958	----	43	----	3,141	----
Wheat, Winter	BU	43,350	41,613	34,462	----	44	----	1,499	----
Barley	BU	4,527	3,974	4,021	----	69	----	279	----
All Hay	TON	----	----	61,916	62,940	2.55	----	158	----
Alfalfa Hay	TON	----	----	21,707	----	3.47	----	75	----
Other Hay	TON	----	----	40,209	----	2.05	----	82	----
Apples	LBS	----	----	----	----	----	----	9,459	----
Peaches	LBS	----	----	----	----	----	----	2,598	----
Potatoes, Summer	CWT	59.1	----	54.6	----	345	----	19	----

¹Acres planted is for all purposes.